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Magazine

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# Editor's Comment



## ONE would hope the Draft Local Plan, recently approved by Warrington Borough Council is not political.

We should all care for all our Green open spaces, wherever they are, right across the borough, as they are our green lungs for a town blighted with pollution.

Despite taking on board the comments of around 4,500 local residents, the Labour controlled Borough Council has ploughed on with its plan to release around 10 per cent of Green Belt for housing and employment needs over the next 20 years.

I don't know what crystal ball they are gazing in to, but our needs now and in 20 years could be completely different on the back of issues like Brexit, a declining birth rate and the cost of living.

In my opinion (and many others) it is far too soon to start ripping up our Green Belt for more housing and employment, when there are still plenty of infill and brownfield sites available all over Warrington.

One of the biggest concerns is the lack of infrastructure to support these developments, not just with highways but local amenities like schools, doctors, shops and leisure amenities e.t.c.

When I was growing up in Croft the village boasted a Post Office, a convenience store, a gift shop, a hairdressers as well as the local pubs.

Now four decades on with many more homes and families living in the village, the number of amenities have

actually decreased, with no shops left in the village due to the way the world has changed - and who knows what changes lie ahead.

Will Brexit ever happen? Will HS2 happen? Will pollution continue to worsen? Will our highways become even more gridlocked?

There are just too many unknowns to risk sacrificing our precious Green Belt.

I go back to my opening statement - I hope the Draft Local Plan is not politically motivated, although if you look at the way elected members voted, it was only members of the controlling Labour group who voted in favour of it and while there were six abstentions within the group, they were all members representing a certain area under threat from development at

Peel Hall, which hasn't been removed from the local plan, so it would have been a bit like turkeys voting for Christmas if they had supported it.

But again why only abstain? If you don't believe in something vote against it and represent your electorate properly. Have courage in your convictions and stand against the party machines.

As we have been witnessing on a daily basis in national government - democracy as we know it is broken.

I have always said and I still say, politics should never come in to play at a local level.

So here is a clear message to all elected representatives - represent the people who have voted you into office - because they can quite easily vote you out come the next elections.



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# Winwick man takes on Trans Pennine cycle challenge

**A WINWICK man is set to take on a difficult challenge, cycling the 346km Trans Pennine Trail to raise money for Cheshire and Merseyside Blood Bikes and Prostate Cancer UK.**

Paul Chruszcz, 66, will be joining three others to cycle the Trans Pennine Trail coast to coast from Southport to Hornsea, a total of 346 kilometres, from May 13 – 17. A keen cyclist, Paul has never attempted a challenge on this scale, but is hoping his efforts will raise much-needed funds for two

important charities. Commenting on the challenge Paul said: "I enjoy cycling and go out on my bike most days and I took part in my first sponsored cycle challenge last year, but that was just within Cheshire. I have never done anything like this before, 346km over 5 days is going to be

an extremely tough challenge.

"I am doing this to raise money for two very worthwhile charities that do fantastic work. Every person who sponsors me will be helping me to get to that finish line in Hornsea and I would be so grateful for any donations, however small, as they will all make a huge difference."

Cheshire and Merseyside Blood Bikes transport a wide range of vital blood and tissue samples between hospitals across Cheshire

and Merseyside, to enable quick and efficient delivery of vital supplies. While money donated to Prostate Cancer UK will help fund improvements in diagnosis, treatment, prevention and support for Prostate Cancer sufferers.

Any donation, however small, will make a big difference to these charities, if you would like to support Paul, please donate via his Just Giving page [www.justgiving.com/teams/Paul-Chruszcz](http://www.justgiving.com/teams/Paul-Chruszcz)



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# Campaigners hope to buy historic Raven Inn – for the community



**CAMPAIGNERS** fighting to save the historic Raven Inn at Glazebury have appealed to the prospective developer to “walk away” from the scheme.

They want to see the building preserved as a community asset rather than re-developed for housing purposes – and they hope to buy the building to enable this to happen.

Originally developers Osborne put in plans to demolish the black-and-white building and build 10 houses on the site.

They withdrew the proposal after an uproar from local residents.

But the campaign group, The Raven Inn Community Pub Project, are still concerned about the loss of local heritage.

Spokesman Peter Sturman said “We were expecting the developers to withdraw the current application, after what they said towards the end of February. We are now expecting an amended application, which we await with interest.

“We need to see what comes forward, but we are mindful of what the developer said last month : ‘It is our intention (subject to planning consent of course) to convert The Raven into two residential units and keep the front and side elevations as far as possible in the original form’

“But the history and heritage of the Raven is in the entire building, not just two external walls, at best.

“On the information available to us, at best, we get a facade concealing two additional

dwellings. We do need to wait and see.

“In the meantime we urge the developer to please consider walking away from this venture and allow the local community to preserve the entire building for the benefit of the local community.

“We expect an amended application but we cannot afford to just sit back and wait.

“It remains our firm intention to seek to purchase the Raven and make it a community pub. We are very mindful to show the proper respect and regard for the owners of the Raven. This is likely to be a difficult time for them and we intend to be a positive option for them.

“We must observe any current agreements that may be in place at the same time as actively planning to move forward with our community pub plans. While this is a delicate balance let no one underestimate our commitment and our resolve.

“We are currently working with an organisation that has helped, or is helping, over 1,000 community businesses. It has a 100 per cent success rate with regard to community pubs - yes 100 per cent.

“Ours is a positive campaign. We seek no arguments with anyone and really want to work with all interested parties in order to achieve a fantastic outcome for the local community.”

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# Builder offers to pay stamp duty of up to £14,000 on new homes

**A HOUSE builder is offering to pay stamp duty of almost £14,000 on new homes being built at Culcheth.**

Elan Homes are building the 15 four and five-bed properties at Culcheth Green, on Warrington Road already available to reserve "off plan" by appointment only.

The development of just 15 properties is taking shape on Warrington Road, in a location where residents will be able to embrace living in the Cheshire village.

Elan is offering to help to cut the cost of moving by paying the Stamp Duty on selected properties.

Marie Morris, sales director for Elan Homes in the North, said: "The cost of Stamp Duty is often described by industry experts as impacting on people's ability to move and therefore holding up the housing market. It's a hidden tax that people may forget to budget for when they're thinking of moving and as it's indexed against the purchase price can add considerably to the total paid."

"The Association of Accounting

Technicians suggested that the bill be passed on to sellers and we've taken that on board by offering to cover Stamp Duty for customers at Culcheth Green. Effectively it means a tax saving of anything from £8,500 to almost £14,000."

Current prices at Culcheth Green range from £369,995 for a four-bedroom detached Brandon with integral single garage, up to £474,995 for a five-bedroom detached Mellor with integral double garage.

Elan can tailor move-making incentive packages to buyers' needs and as an alternative to Stamp Duty paid will offer a £10,000 discount voucher to be redeemed against selected properties.

The homes at Culcheth Green are available with a carefully selected high specification that can be tailored to the individual customer's needs and are the perfect complement to the company's style of build.

"Buying a brand new property in the early stages of a development, before the homes are physically built, presents homeowners with opportunities that aren't available to those who purchase a house someone else has lived in," Ms Morris explained.

"But what sets Elan apart from other homebuilders is that our standard specification includes many features others class as upgrades. For example, the largest properties at Culcheth

Green feature Symphony kitchens with integrated Smeg appliances including five-ring hob, oven, microwave and dishwasher with bathrooms by Ideal Standard or Sottini. As a general rule, if the roof hasn't been fitted yet there will be time to make your choices."

To find out more about the homes available at Culcheth Green or to make an appointment with the sales team see the website [www.elan-homes.co.uk/culcheth-green](http://www.elan-homes.co.uk/culcheth-green)



## Solicitors for the Elderly (SFE) member urges local residents to check eligibility for LPA refund

Rebecca Stringfellow of Dootsons solicitors is urging people to check their eligibility for a lasting power of attorney (LPA) fee refund, after almost two million people were overcharged by the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) between 2013 and 2017. Claimants can expect to receive a refund of up to £54, with any accrued interest since the registration was made.

So far, only 200,000 of the 1.8million people owed have claimed their refund, meaning that there's £77million still owed to customers.

To apply for a refund visit: [www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney-refund](http://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney-refund). The exact amount will depend on when the registration was made, and claims must be made by 1st February 2021.

An LPA is an important document that gives a loved one the power to make decisions on your behalf when you can no longer do so.

There are two types of LPA: a health and welfare LPA, and a property and financial affairs LPA.

Recent research from SFE found that there are only 7% of LPAs in place across the UK, meaning that millions of people are currently unprepared for later life. SFE urges anyone planning for their future to consider setting up an LPA and seek advice from a specialist lawyer.

Lakshmi Turner, Chief Executive of SFE, said: "Whilst it's comforting to know that people are making provisions by putting in place LPAs, millions of families, many of whom may have been going through a tough time with elderly relatives, will have been needlessly overcharged."

"It's good to see the OPG addressing the error, and with the deadline for applications approaching, we're urging people to check their eligibility for a refund soon."

Rebecca Stringfellow said: "It takes about ten minutes to claim online. You'll need the donor's bank details and a copy of the LPA, if you have it. If you need help or more information about making a claim, there's a Refunds Helpline you can contact, either via telephone on 0300 456 0300 or email [poarefunds@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:poarefunds@justice.gsi.gov.uk)."

If you need assistance, speak to Rebecca Stringfellow, your local SFE lawyer.

### About SFE

SFE (Solicitors for the Elderly) is an independent, national organisation of over 1,600 lawyers, such as

solicitors, barristers, and chartered legal executives, who provide specialist legal advice for older and vulnerable people, their families and carers.

The main areas of law members cover are:

- Powers of Attorney
- Making a Will
- Living Wills/Advance decisions
- Tax planning
- Asset preservation
- Trusts
- Probate
- Will disputes
- Court of Protection
- Elder abuse



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Rebecca Stringfellow of Dootsons.



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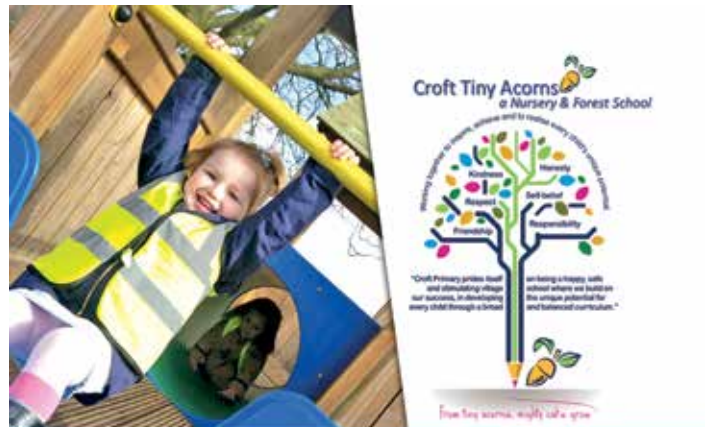
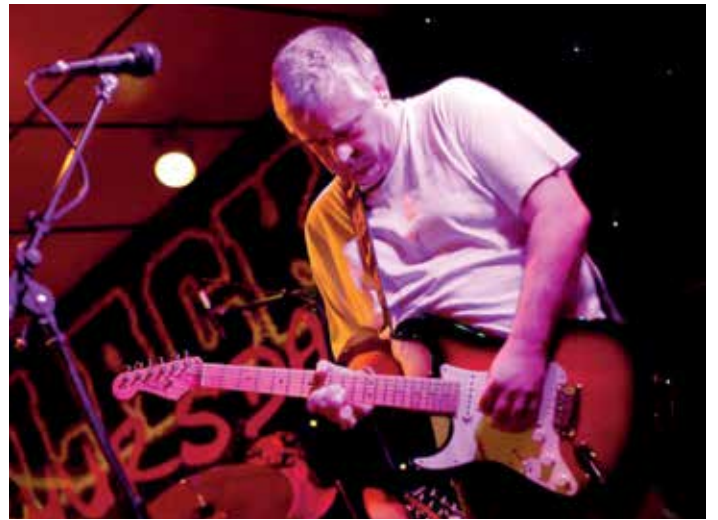
# Family seek bone marrow donors and funds to help save

**A desperate Culcheth family is urging people to become bone marrow donors and donate funds to help save the life of local man John Ollier who has been diagnosed with a rare blood disease.**

John is well known on the local music circuit as the lead guitarist of Warrington's local classic rock covers band Black Thursday.

In October last year he felt ill with high temperatures and 'flu-like symptoms. A doctor's examination told him that he had a virus, and to 'sit it out' with paracetamol and sore throat lozenges.

After two more weeks, he was told that it could be tonsillitis and was given antibiotics, and on the third visit an appointment was arranged for a blood test. He didn't make that appointment, as on 4th November he was admitted to A&E in Warrington with a racing heartbeat and other serious symptoms. The next day he was



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# narrow donors and rock guitarist's life

told that he had leukaemia, and was rushed to Whiston hospital in St Helens by ambulance.

A further diagnosis at the hospital confirmed he had Acute Myeloid Leukaemia and would need three courses of chemotherapy over several months. At that stage he was very poorly, with widespread pneumonia and other infections, and no immune system at all.

After the first course lasting six weeks he was out of danger and allowed home to recuperate before the next course early in January. He was home for Christmas, and he and his fiancée, Anne Daybell, were married in Warrington at the end of December.

Two more courses of chemotherapy followed, with some good news at the end of the third session. He was in good remission, and would only need to be a day patient for a few months, and then three-monthly checks at an outpatient clinic for a year.

However, the week before he was due to be discharged from Whiston his specialist gave his family some bad news. It was already known that John had a genetic mutation that caused the leukaemia, but a further genetic test had flagged a new mutation, of which John's is a rare form. Up until then his leukaemia was under control but it turned out that the chemotherapy wasn't enough and now he desperately needs a bone marrow transplant, as soon as possible.

In his doctor's words, this is 'big treatment'. It's far more toxic for his organs, and there are many risks along the way which will be life threatening. His care will be transferred to Liverpool Royal Hospital under a new team of specialists.

John, Anne and their family are in shock, and completely devastated.

"It was hard to accept the first time he was diagnosed, we couldn't believe it was happening," says Anne. "But now John is facing an even bigger battle. His treatment will be so difficult for him. This journey is far from straightforward, and far from being over. Without a bone marrow transplant the disease will prove fatal for John."

There are two other barriers to his successful treatment and recovery. He needs a bone marrow donor as soon as possible. His two adult children are being tested as possible donors, and either may be a half match, but a full 100% match donor is preferable for John. He's on the bone marrow recipient



register, but it may take time to find a good match for him.

In the meantime, there is a drug that may help, which will inhibit the gene that has mutated, but this isn't available on the NHS for John's rare form of leukaemia. One dose, lasting one month, costs £11,000, and he may need several doses. It's been shown that it could help to put him in a better position before his treatment, as it will curb the development of more mutating cells which could give him more time for a suitable donor to be found. This drug has also been shown to improve prognosis for recovery after treatment.

John is currently relying on a fourth (initially unplanned) course of chemotherapy at Whiston hospital during the next few weeks to help him stay alive before undergoing the bone marrow transplant as soon as a donor can be found, but time is running out, this is John's last chance of survival.

Seventy five per cent of patients won't find a matching donor in their families. More bone marrow donors are required, not just for John, but for the 2000+ people who are in need of bone marrow or stem cells in the UK every year.

Getting on the register is simple. If you're aged between 17 and 55, just register at [www.dkms.org.uk](http://www.dkms.org.uk) and request a cheek swab. This will be sent in the post, and you can do it in seconds in the comfort of your own home. It's a much simpler process to donate than it used to be, and donors are usually back to work the next day. The best match is a white Caucasian male, of which there are plenty around Warrington.

As a family, they can't raise the £11,000+ on their own so they are looking for individuals and businesses to help save John's life.

So far they have managed to raise over £3,000 towards their £5,000 target.

To donate, please go to [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/john-ollier](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/john-ollier)

All donations will go directly to help fund John's vital treatment.



## The Gardening Guide



“ Spring fertiliser can be applied to your lawn, but remember to water it in if there's no rain. ”

Simon Bax,  
Plant Area Specialist

- Spring vegetables such as peas, beans and lettuce seeds can be sown now.
- Try spring cleaning your houseplants; remove spent flowers, dead leaves and rinse the dust from the leaves with a sprayer as clean leaves allow the plant to breathe!
- Plant up hanging baskets with fuchsias and other basket plants and then hang them up in your greenhouse to establish.
- Many of the birds (that you put up nest boxes for!) will have young now and need help with food.

Bents Garden & Home, Warrington Road, Glazebury, Cheshire WA3 5NT. 01942 266300. Check online for seasonal opening times.

For the latest events and online shopping visit [bents.co.uk](http://bents.co.uk)



### Easter Opening Times

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# Pub staff's boost for St Rocco's Hospice

**WARRINGTON'S favourite charity - St Rocco's Hospice - has received valuable patient care equipment, thanks to staff at a local pub.**

Staff at the Cherry Tree, Culcheth, nominated St Rocco's for support from the Sizzling and Carling Community Action campaign.

The Cherry Tree is a Sizzling pub and Carling is supporting a range of local community projects across the UK.

St Rocco's has been able to provide its Vitality Centre facility, which provides a variety of therapy programmes to inpatients, with new chair scales and pear push leads.

The chair scale, a wheelchair with an integrated weighing system, is crucial in allowing patients who are unable to stand to be weighed quickly, easily and with minimum discomfort, while the pear push leads are a crucial calling product

that enables individuals with limited mobility and strength to contact their nurse.

Staff from the pub have visited the hospice to meet the appreciative healthcare professionals, support staff and patients, as well as see the newly purchased products in use.

The funding will have a lasting impact on the charity.

St Rocco's fundraising manager Rachel Ingham said: "The new equipment will prove vital in supporting our patients for many years to come. We are very grateful for this funding award from the Sizzling and Carling Community Action campaign".

Details of how to help support St Rocco's. visit [www.stroccos.org.uk](http://www.stroccos.org.uk)



## Pupils take part in PowerWise Safety session



PUPILS from Croft Primary School took part in an interactive PowerWise safety session at Safety Central safety centre as part of SP Energy Networks' PowerWise Month.

PowerWise is an online educational resource packed full of fun missions, video and tasks. It has been developed by the business to help children understand how to stay safe around electricity at home, at school or when playing outside. It also teaches them how electricity is generated and gets from the power station to plug.

SP Energy Networks is encouraging parents and teachers to visit [powerwise.org.uk](http://powerwise.org.uk) and challenge their children to take part in a fun safety mission with Sparky the PowerWise mascot. The company owns and manages overhead and underground powerlines in Cheshire as well as Merseyside, North Wales, North Shropshire and Southern and Central Scotland. For more information about SP Energy Networks and its services, visit: [spenergynetworks.co.uk](http://spenergynetworks.co.uk)

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# CULCHETH & GLAZEBURY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## Your Parish Councillors

### NEWCHURCH WARD



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Margaret Webber  
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### GLAZEBURY & MEE BROW WARD



Anne Roberts  
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### CULCHETH WARD



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Keith Bland  
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Sue Bland  
01925 766641



Valerie Allen  
01925 767274



Ileyne Hutchinson  
01925 765131

## Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council Community Day

Monday, 6th May, Culcheth Green,  
Main Attraction H+M Dog Display Team  
Stalls, Fairground attractions, Food and Entertainment

Programme 12.00 p.m. - 4 pm

Opening by the Chairman of the Parish Council  
H+M Dog Display Team, Band One Steel Band, Dozy Dave  
children's entertainer, Circus Whizz, Wild Wings, Karate Displays,  
Family Pet Show, Cars, Tractors and Bikes Show, Children's Fancy  
Dress. More details on Flyers delivered to the villages as well as on  
our website [www.culchethandglazebury-pc.org.uk](http://www.culchethandglazebury-pc.org.uk)

### Warrington's Draft Local Plan 2017 to 2037

The consultation on this starts in April. Information can be found on the Parish Council Website, on [www.warrington.gov.uk](http://www.warrington.gov.uk) and in Culcheth Library. There is a link on the front page of this Borough website to the consultation document. There is also a link to further background information through "planning and building control" further down the front page, and then "Planning policy".

Green Belt :- At the time of writing the proposal for Culcheth is for at least 200 houses to the East of the village, on land proposed to be taken out of the Green Belt. There are no Green Belt changes for Glazebury. We will be making a detailed response to the whole document.

### Wider Consultations

Our Parish shares boundaries with Greater Manchester's Wigan and Salford and what happens there can affect us - as do proposals for land along the M6 in St. Helens. The main impact is on traffic through our villages and so we comment on their plans. Restrictions to lorry use along Winwick Lane are already having an unacceptable impact, particularly on Glazebury. Residents have formed a working group with the Borough Council and Councillors..

We also commented on a national consultation on housing projections, as Warrington has to develop in line with national policy. We argued for the more recent lower figures to be used. Government consultations are found on [www.gov.uk/government/consultations](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations)

The Raven Inn - we are continuing to support the residents' campaign and prevent demolition. The history of our villages is important.

Law and Order- we are working with the police/ PCSO to address the issue of ASB in our villages.

HS2 - we have a new person liaising with our area. For contact details see the Parish website or ask a Councillor.

Smart Motorway Works Compound. There is a works access to the M62 where Holcroft Lane goes over the Motorway, but the works compound will be closer to Culcheth in a field with an existing entrance between the motorway and Hanging Birch Farm. The traffic associated with this will operate practically 24/7 so please be careful, look for changes in the speed limits, and report any problems to the Borough Council.

### Publication of information

The Parish Council has adopted a publication of Information scheme. Details of who we are, what we do and how the public can access information is published on the main notice boards, Common Lane, Culcheth and Churchill Avenue, Mee Brow, Culcheth Library and on our website [www.culchethandglazebury-pc.org.uk](http://www.culchethandglazebury-pc.org.uk)

# Residents urged to have their say on Draft Local Plan

**RESIDENTS of the Culcheth and Croft areas are being urged to make sure they have a say on the proposals for the two villages of the Warrington's Local Plan when it goes out for public consultation.**

Cllr Val Allen and Cllr Keith Bland, who are Conservative members of both Culcheth and Glazebury and Croft parish councils, spoke out following approval of the Local Plan by the borough council's executive board.

Cllr Allen believes the level of building proposed for the Green Belt is too high and the proposed site in Croft will lead to more traffic in rural village.

She said: "The inclusion of a proposal to build up to 75 homes in Croft, in Green Belt, is totally unacceptable.

"Not only is this a large development in what is a small, under-facilitated village, with limited public services and

transport, but a significant amount of the proposed land lies directly behind Croft Primary School.

"When my children went to this school, they enjoyed fields on three sides, with horses grazing - this is how they remember their school days. Several years ago a housing estate was built on one side, with houses right up to the school boundary.

"Today, the school enjoys this open vista on two sides and the children are settled in their school in a rural village setting. This is one of the reasons why the residents of Croft have chosen to bring their children up in this lovely village.

"The proposal to build a large number of houses, right up to the rear boundary of the school will have the effect of closing in the school on two sides, with houses overlooking the playground and playing field, leaving our children vulnerable during construction through to occupation.

"We cannot allow this to happen. Our Green Belt is precious, and the village is under siege already with HGV's trundling through narrow country lanes, narrowly missing our children on footpaths that are hardly wide enough for a pram. This development will only exacerbate this problem and put the future of our children and grandchildren at risk".

Cllr Bland said: "I am opposed to development in the Green Belt - and in Culcheth and Glazebury

there is precious little land left that isn't in the Green Belt.

"The roads where they are proposing to build houses in Culcheth - Holcroft Lane and Warrington Road - are already choc-a-block with traffic and can be gridlocked at peak periods.

"I believe that once we have allowed some building in the Green Belt, the major developers will want more.

"We already know from what they said at the start of the Local Plan process that they want literally thousands of houses in Culcheth and Croft.

"They will probably appeal against the Local Plan on the grounds that not enough land is being made available for housing - and they have got the money to fight appeals and win.

"We have got to carry on fighting, no matter what the borough council decided in their Local Plan."

Cllr Allen will be seeking election to the borough council in the local elections next year. She will

be joined by fellow Tory Wendy Maisey and together they are already consulting local residents about producing a response to the Local Plan.



## Cricketers travel away from home for first game

GLAZEBURY Cricket Club open their season on April 20 with a trip to Bowdon Vale in the UKFast Cheshire League.

The club finished a disappointing 10th in division four last year - but they were 41 points ahead of the teams below them with seven wins to their credit and no draws they clearly played a positive brand of cricket.

Glazebury 2nd will start their season at home on the same day. They will be hosting North East Cheshire, a new club formed by an amalgamation of the former Poynton and Disley clubs.

Poynton played in the Cheshire League division two last year and the new club has already given a clue to its ambitions by signing a promising young Aussie as its "overseas player."

## Council pays tribute to litter warden

CULCHETH and Glazebury Parish Council has paid tribute to their Community and Maintenance Officer and litter warden following a decision to outsource the service.

Parish Council Chairman Margaret Webber said: "Too often we take for granted the many people who quietly work for the good of our village communities with little notice or thanks. One such person is Bob Redford.

"Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council would like to pay tribute to Bob for the excellent service he has given to the villages since he began work as Community Maintenance Officer (CMO) in April 2012 and, prior to that, as Litter Warden.

"In a sometimes difficult and demanding job, Bob's attention to detail and willingness to take on extra duties has been of great importance to the environment of the villages. Our communities don't stay smart and litter-free by magic.

It's all the little things that make the big difference. Bob's invaluable help and advice have greatly benefitted the community and often saved the Parish considerable amounts of money. Most importantly, Bob has always presented a positive image to the public, and regularly passed on their comments and complaints for action. For all this, Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council would like to express our gratitude.

Cllr Webber added: "The council has now outsourced its litter collection service and the CMO will no longer be a Parish Council employee. However, we are delighted that Bob will continue to do his job keeping our villages tidy for the foreseeable future."

## House plan approved despite local objections

PLANNING chiefs at Warrington have given the go-ahead to a plan to build a house on an old garage site at Glazebury.

Members of the borough council's development management committee approved the scheme in Hurst Mill Lane, despite opposition from Culcheth and Glazebury Parish Council and a number of local residents.

The scheme will involve removal of a group of three garages.

Neighbours have objected, citing danger from asbestos in the garages, Japanese Knotweed on the site, highway safety and lack of parking, the risk of flooding, loss of

protected trees, etc.

The parish council opposed the scheme on the grounds of the wider impact on land and existing watercourses to the south, the possibility of flooding, parking difficulties and the size of the proposed house.

Officers recommended the scheme be approved. They said most of the site had previously been developed and the scheme would assist the borough council in its aim to deliver 80 per cent of new homes on previously developed land.

They said the site is in a sustainable location, in a residential area.



# RL youngsters cycle for Anna

**MEMBERS of the Under 11 Owls team at Culcheth Eagles Rugby League Club took part in a Salford to Warrington cycle ride to raise funds for one of the team organisers who has been stricken by cancer.**

Anna Bailey, one of the parents, puts in hours of work organising team events.

Last season she organised for the team to go to Wembley to watch Warrington v Catalan and then arranged for them to go to a holiday camp at Skegness for a Rhino RL tournament.

Then she booked them in a tournament in Birstall, where the team all stayed over for the weekend.

Another parent, David Lee, said: "She literally does everything for the team and now, unfortunately, she has come down with cancer. But she is still keeping involved with the team and the kids as much as she can.

"She is still organising events for them to do this year."

The bike ride was from Salford's AJ Bell stadium to Warrington's Halliwell Jones stadium.

Anna and members of the team met players at both grounds and had photographs taken.

Both clubs have donated match passes, signed balls and shirts, etc., to enable further fund-raising to take place.

Wigan Warriors and Leigh Centurions also donated items.

"It was one of the worst days of the year, weather wise, but the kids absolutely loved it. They were all wet and muddy and had huge smiles on their faces."



## School raises £823 to celebrate Comic Relief

TEACHERS and students got together at Birchwood High School with a non-uniform day to raise money on Comic Relief Day.

A grand total of £823 was raised – which was divided between Comic Relief, Cancer Research UK and Alzheimer's Research UK.

Students really had a lot to laugh about as the staff went to town with a fancy dress surprise.

Office staff provided their usual service dressed as Oompa Lompas, and lessons were taught by cowgirls, Sixties hippies and members of the Adams Family to

mention but a few.

Students were also surprised to see Senior Leadership Team, including headteacher Moira Bryan dressed as rebellious learners!

There was also an opportunity for a donation, to throw wet sponges at teachers John Burnham and Andrea Jones, which proved popular with students and staff. The pair were literally soaked to the skin.

A cake sale organised by student officers was a big success, raising more than £100.

## High school unveil refurbished all-weather pitch



Birchwood Community High School are delighted to have officially opened their newly refurbished third generation artificial grass pitch.

This project has been made possible by a £367,235 grant from the Premier League, The FA and Government's Football Foundation. Birchwood Community High School also contributed £90,000 from school funds to make the project possible.

The refurbished pitch, which opened on Friday, March 29 at 10am, will enable partner clubs Birchwood Juniors FC and Woolston Rovers FC to return to their home site. Both clubs were forced to find alternative playing locations when the original pitch was closed for community use in Spring 2017. The new pitch will facilitate the growth of the clubs in youth, Mini-Soccer and open-age players, with a focus on mixed and girls' football.

Since 2000, the Football Foundation Funding Partners' investment has provided 268 grants worth £14.7m towards grassroots sports projects worth over £54.1m across the whole of Liverpool County FA.



# Herbal medicine and nutritional therapy

**SPEAKER at the monthly meeting of Glazebrook WI was Natalia Kerkham, a qualified practitioner in both herbal medicine and nutritional therapy.**

Her practice is in Stretton, and she specializes in treating IBS, (irritable bowel syndrome) and migraine.

She recommended not making drastic changes, in diet, which may upset one's balance, but to try one thing at a time.

She gave a general talk, giving all members colourful booklets. Her "Seven secrets", were listed with advice, on each.

These were: 1, Protein, 2, The Fats of life, 3, Fibre, 4, Water and fluids, 5, Spices, 6, Varied diet - with the Chinese saying eat 20 different foods a day, 7, slow food - take your time, chew, taste and enjoy, only eat food one enjoys.

Her advice was well received and enjoyed by the members.

After tea, the meeting discussed the coming Cheshire Show needing volunteers, future meetings to consider WI resolutions, and a future visit to the Brindley Theatre to see a musical.

## Behind the scenes at television studios

MEMBERS of Croft WI were taken behind the scenes at television studios when speaker Judith Popley gave a talk on "My Life at Granada TV".

Judith worked for Granada from 1973 until 1984 starting in the Press Office and subsequently graduating to production. During that time she met many of the now famous actors when they were first starting their careers and also her future husband who was a camera operator.

Granada television was founded by two brothers Sidney and Cecil Bernstein in 1956, who at that time owned Granada theatres and cinemas in the south of England, choosing the name Granada due to their fondness for the city in Spain.

They became involved in commercial television, a competitor to the cinema chains, through the launch of ITV. Sidney bid for the North of England franchise, which he believed would not affect the company's largely southern based cinema and theatre chain. The North and London were the two largest regions. Sidney preferred the North because of its tradition of home-grown culture and because it offered a chance to start a new creative industry away from the metropolitan atmosphere of London and of course he also looked

at the concentration of population in the North. They purchased a 21 acre brown field site from Manchester City Council located on Quay Street in Manchester for £82,000 and built studios and offices on this site, which, if the enterprise failed, could be converted into a hotel (actually happening in 2019, due to the unification of ITV and the move to Media City, Salford Quays). Granada transmissions began on May 3, 1956 and that was the first time adverts appeared on British television.

Over the years countless famous dramas, quizzes and soaps were produced by Granada and Judith's presentation included very interesting stories and photos of her time working with numerous now famous stars including Emma Thompson, Kenneth Branagh, Colin Firth, Hugh Grant, Hugh Laurie, and members of the original cast of Coronation Street, plus many more. One photo was of particular interest showing Judith earnestly chatting to a young Cliff Richard!

President Anne Lamming gave a vote of thanks for a thoroughly enjoyable presentation.

The competition was won by Bettina Sharpe, 2nd Janet Hughes, 3rd Christine Syvestri.

## Remembering the music of the Sixties

A FUN night celebrating the well-remembered music of the Sixties is to be held at Culcheth Sports Club on Saturday, May 11.

The music will be provided by local band "80-40" with support from Culcheth Methodist Choir.

Beatles, Shadows, Cliff Richard, Gerry and the Pacemakers, Chuck Berry and many more will be featured on the night. People attending will be encouraged to dress in Sixties gear, including mini skirts, long flower power dresses or flares. There will be a prize for the best dressed.

The event will raise money for two charities - Cancer Research and Liverpool's Walton Centre - the only stand alone NHS hospital for neurology. It is where people are treated for brain and spinal injuries and associated pain.

Tickets will be available from early April and can be purchased from Culcheth Sports Club and Poyton's Florist on Lodge Drive.



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